GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3025
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
INCREASE IN TAXATION ON TOBACCO
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether South East Asian Regional Committee of the W.H.O. has recommended to their member countries to increase taxation on tobacco and to enact Legislation on the use of Tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia in its Fifty-second Session held at Dhaka on 6-9 September, 1999 has urged Member-States (1) to constitute a multi sectoral national council to facilitate nation-wide tobacco control activities; (2) to adopt and strengthen policies which will reduce tobacco consumption including inter-alia: restricting and prohibiting advertisements and promotion of all forms of tobacco products; enforcing regulations governing the packaging, visibility and effectiveness of health warnings; increasing taxes on tobacco products; intensifying consumer education on health hazards of tobacco; undertaking cessation programmes; expanding and enforcing smoking free areas and conducting focussed research; and (3) to actively participate in the development and negotiations of the WHO framework convention on tobacco control.

(c) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd Report had also made several recommendations primarily intended to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. Government is examining these recommendations and the draft legislation is under consideration of the Government.